

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 26-28 are presently pending for the Examiner's review and consideration.

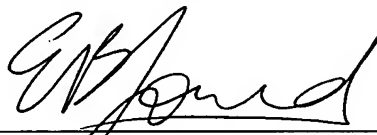
Applicants appreciate the Examiner's finding that claim 25 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. The recitations of claims 24 and 25 have been incorporated into claim 1, placing claim 1 in allowable form. Consequently, all substantive rejections in this office action are now moot.

As claims 2-23 and 26-28 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1, these claims are also in condition for allowance. Claims 24 and 25 have been cancelled without prejudice. As no new matter or substantive issues have been entered, the entry of this amendment is warranted to reduce the issues for appeal by placing the entire application in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, early notice of which would be appreciated. Should any issues remain, a personal or telephonic interview is respectfully requested to discuss the same in order to expedite the allowance of all the claims in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

March 16, 2006
Date



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